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(54) Title: **INHIBITORS OF IL-12 PRODUCTION**

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a compound of formula (I) which can inhibit the production of IL-12. Also disclosed is a method of inhibiting IL-12 production by administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I).

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## INHIBITORS OF IL-12 PRODUCTION

### Background of the Invention

5 Cytokines such as interleukin-12 (IL-12) mediate the acute phase response to inflammatory stimuli, enhance the microbicidal functions of macrophages and other cells, and promote specific lymphocyte responses. See, e.g.,  
10 Fearon and Locksley, Science 272:50 (1996).

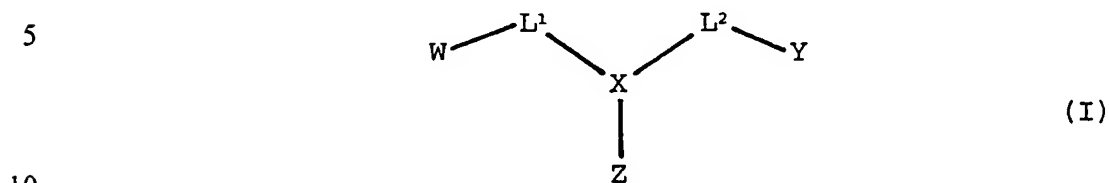
Recently, *in vivo* studies revealed that inhibition of IL-12 production has therapeutic effects against inflammatory disorders such as sepsis (Zisman et al., Eur. J. Immunol. 27:2994 (1997)), collagen induced  
15 arthritis (Malfait et al., Clin. Exp. Immunol. 111:377 (1998)), established colitis (U.S. Patent No. 5,853,697), experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (Leonard et al., J. Exp. Med. 181:381 (1995)), experimental  
20 autoimmune uveoretinitis (Yokoi et al., Eur. J. Immunol. 27:641 (1997)), psoriasis (Turka et al., Mol. Med. 1:690 (1995)), and cyclophosphamide induced diabetes (Rothe et al., Diabetologia 40:641 (1997)).

Production of IL-12 can be inhibited by anti-IL-12 antibodies. However, long term treatments of chronic  
25 diseases with such antibodies are expensive. Also, antibodies can be unstable after administration. Thus, there exists a need for use of small non-protein compounds instead of anti-IL-12 antibodies to inhibit the production of IL-12.

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# Summary of the Invention

An aspect of this invention relates to a compound of formula (I):



X is triazinyl. L<sup>1</sup> is -A<sup>1</sup>-B<sup>1</sup>-, in which -A<sup>1</sup>- is -(CH(R<sup>a</sup>))<sub>m</sub>-, -O-, -S-, or -N(R<sup>b</sup>)- and -B<sup>1</sup>- is -(CH(R<sup>c</sup>))<sub>n</sub>- or a bond. Each of R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>c</sup>, independently, is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl. R<sup>b</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl. Each of m and n, independently, is 1-8. W is cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, each of which being optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy. L<sup>2</sup> is -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>-, in which A<sup>2</sup> is a bond, -N(R<sup>1</sup>)-, or -(-C(R<sup>2</sup>)(R<sup>3</sup>))-<sub>p</sub>-, and B<sup>2</sup> is a bond, -N=C(R<sup>4</sup>)-, -C(R<sup>5</sup>)=N-, -C(R<sup>6</sup>)=C(R<sup>7</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)=N(R<sup>9</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-C(R<sup>11</sup>)(R<sup>12</sup>)-, -O-C(R<sup>13</sup>)(R<sup>14</sup>)-, -CO-C(R<sup>15</sup>)(R<sup>16</sup>)-, -CO-N(R<sup>17</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>18</sup>)-CO-,

25

30

-CO-, -CO-O-, -CO-S-, -S-C(R<sup>19</sup>)(R<sup>20</sup>)-, -CS-C(R<sup>21</sup>)(R<sup>22</sup>)-, -CS-N(R<sup>23</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>24</sup>)-CS-, -CS-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, provided that -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>- cannot be a bond. -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>- together is -O-, -S-,  
 -(-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-O-)<sub>r</sub>-, -(-N(R<sup>25</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-CO-)<sub>t</sub>-, or  
 5 -(-N(R<sup>26</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>u</sub>-N(R<sup>27</sup>)-) <sub>v</sub>-. Each of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>19</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>, R<sup>21</sup>, R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>23</sup>, R<sup>24</sup>, R<sup>25</sup>, R<sup>26</sup>, and R<sup>27</sup>, independently, is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl,  
 10 heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl. Each of p, q, r, s, t, u, and v, independently, is 1, 2, or 3. Y is -R'-L'-R" wherein R' is a bond, or cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl, each of which  
 15 optionally being substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, or alkoxycarbonylimino. L' is a bond,  
 20 -O-, -S-, -N(R<sup>28</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>29</sup>)-CO-, -CO-N(R<sup>30</sup>)-, -CO-O-, or -O-CO-. Each of R<sup>28</sup>, R<sup>29</sup>, and R<sup>30</sup>, independently, is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl. R" is cycloalkyl,  
 25 heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl, each of which being optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl,  
 30 alkoxycarbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy. Z is morpholinyl which is optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl,

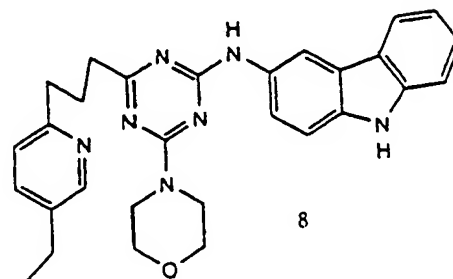
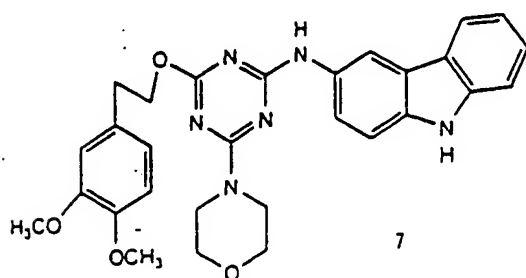
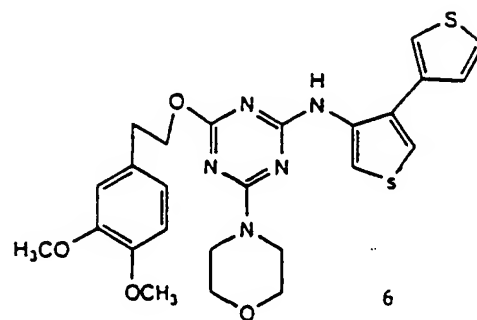
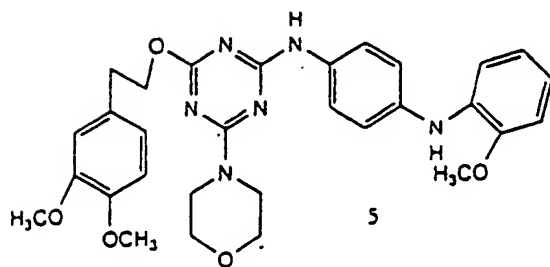
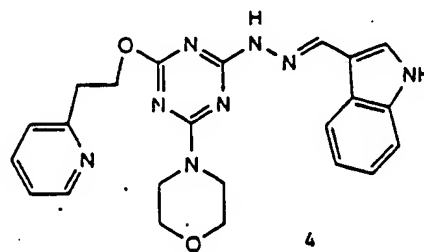
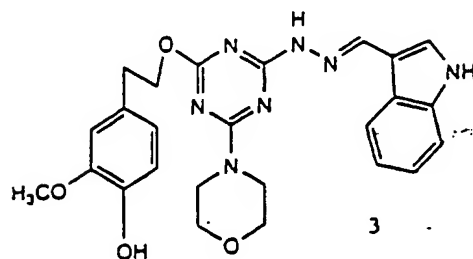
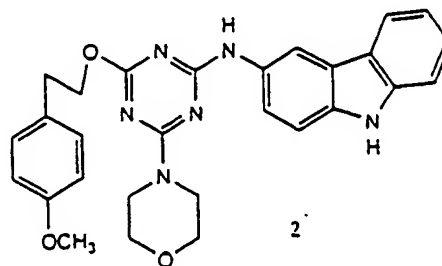
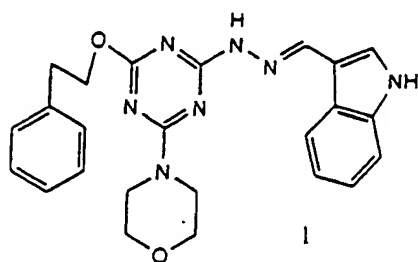
amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy.

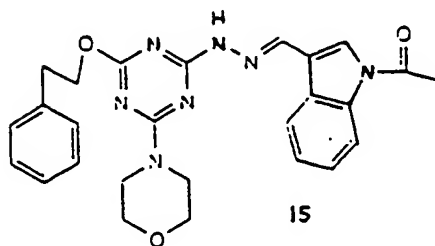
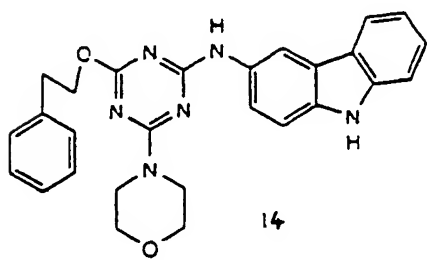
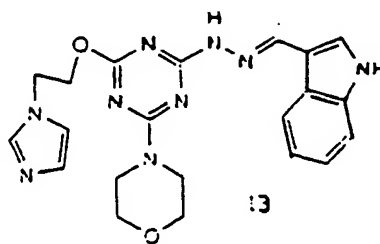
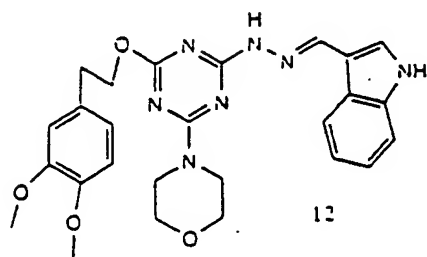
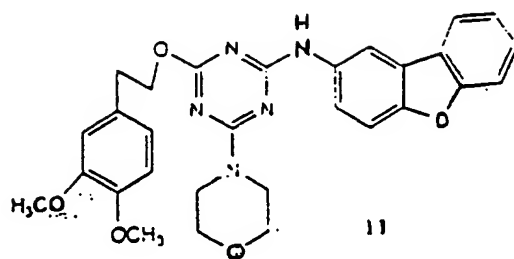
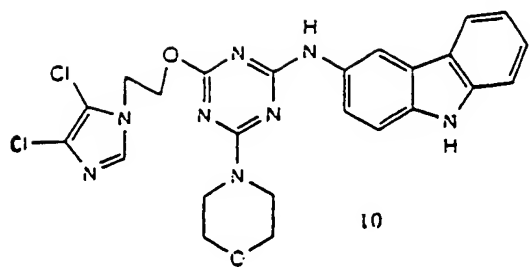
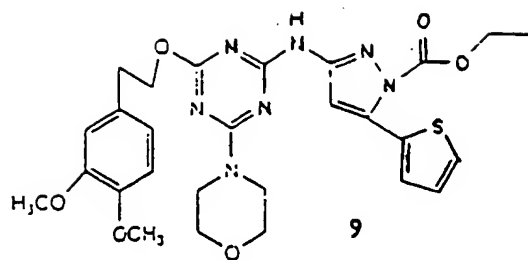
5 Another aspect of this invention relates to a method of inhibiting IL-12 production, which includes administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), *supra*. X is triazinyl. L<sup>1</sup> is -A<sup>1</sup>-B<sup>1</sup>-, in which -A<sup>1</sup>- is -(CH(R<sup>a</sup>))<sub>m</sub>-,  
 10 -O-, -S-, or -N(R<sup>b</sup>)- and -B<sup>1</sup>- is -(CH(R<sup>c</sup>))<sub>n</sub>- or a bond. Each of R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>c</sup>, independently, is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl,  
 15 alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl. R<sup>b</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl. Each of m and n,  
 20 independently, is 1-8. W is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, each of which being optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl,  
 25 amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy. L<sup>2</sup> is -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>-, in which A<sup>2</sup> is a bond, -N(R<sup>1</sup>)-, or -(-C(R<sup>2</sup>)(R<sup>3</sup>))-<sub>p</sub>-, and B<sup>2</sup> is a bond, -N=C(R<sup>4</sup>)-,  
 30 -C(R<sup>5</sup>)=N-, -C(R<sup>6</sup>)=C(R<sup>7</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)=N(R<sup>9</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-C(R<sup>11</sup>)(R<sup>12</sup>)-, -O-C(R<sup>13</sup>)(R<sup>14</sup>)-, -CO-C(R<sup>15</sup>)(R<sup>16</sup>)-, -CO-N(R<sup>17</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>18</sup>)-CO-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -CO-S-, -S-C(R<sup>19</sup>)(R<sup>20</sup>)-, -CS-C(R<sup>21</sup>)(R<sup>22</sup>)-,

-CS-N(R<sup>23</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>24</sup>)-CS-, -CS-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, provided that -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>- cannot be a bond. -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>- together is -O-, -S-,  
 -(-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-O-)<sub>r</sub>-, -(-N(R<sup>25</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-CO-)<sub>t</sub>-, or  
 -(-N(R<sup>26</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>u</sub>-N(R<sup>27</sup>)-)<sub>v</sub>-. Each of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>,  
 5 R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>19</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>,  
 R<sup>21</sup>, R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>23</sup>, R<sup>24</sup>, R<sup>25</sup>, R<sup>26</sup>, and R<sup>27</sup>, independently, is  
 hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo,  
 haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl,  
 heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or  
 10 heteroaralkyl. Each of p, q, r, s, t, u, and v,  
 independently, is 1, 2, or 3. Y is -R'-L'-R" wherein R'  
 is a bond, or cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl,  
 heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl, optionally  
 substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl,  
 15 carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio,  
 thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino,  
 alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl,  
 alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, or  
 alkoxycarbonylimino. L' is a bond, -O-, -S-, -N(R<sup>28</sup>)-,  
 20 -N(R<sup>29</sup>)-CO-, -CO-N(R<sup>30</sup>)-, -CO-O-, or -O-CO-. Each of R<sup>28</sup>,  
 R<sup>29</sup>, and R<sup>30</sup>, independently, is hydrogen, alkyl,  
 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl,  
 or heteroaralkyl. R" is cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,  
 aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl, each of  
 25 which optionally being substituted with alkyl, alkoxy,  
 hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl,  
 amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro,  
 alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl,  
 alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or  
 30 alkylcarbonyloxy. Z is cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl,  
 aryl, or heteroaryl, each of which being optionally  
 substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl,  
 carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio,

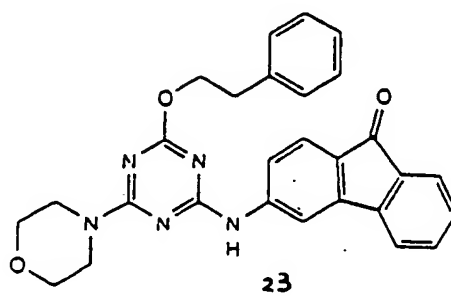
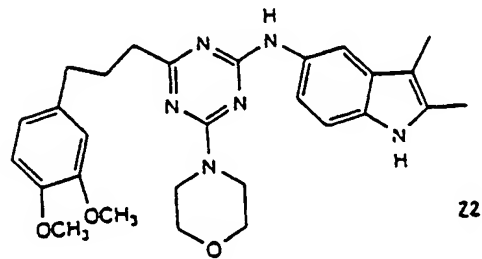
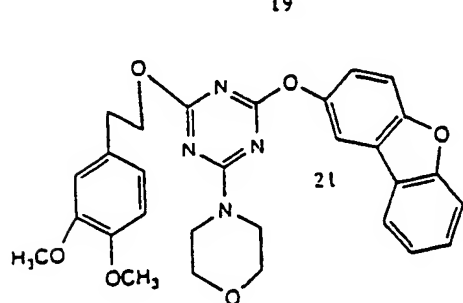
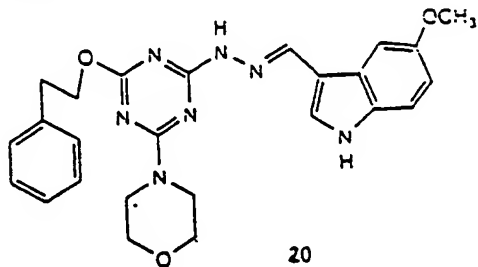
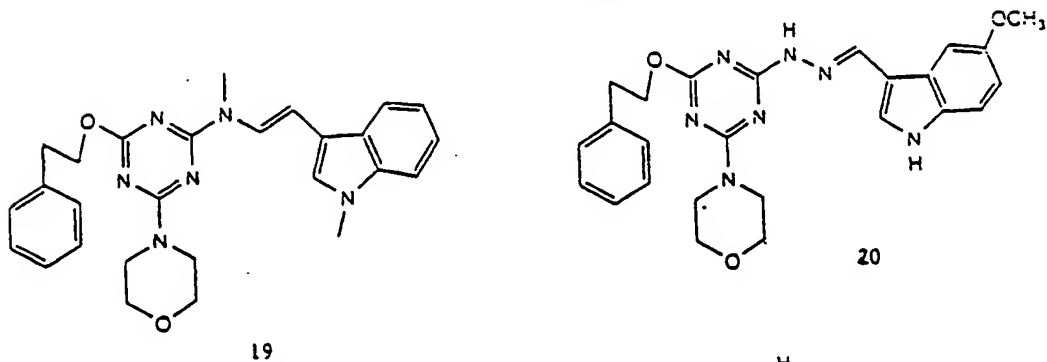
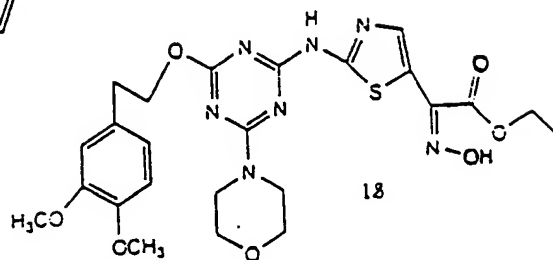
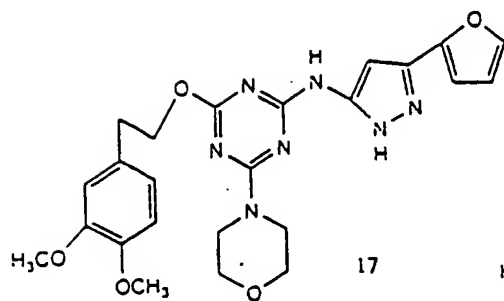
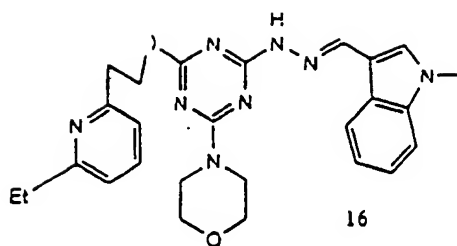
thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy.

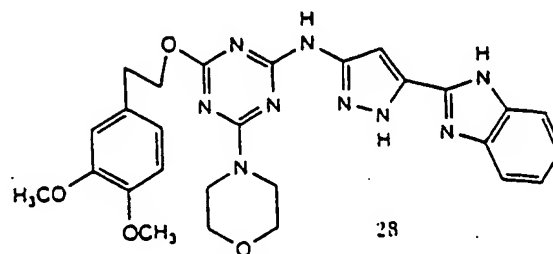
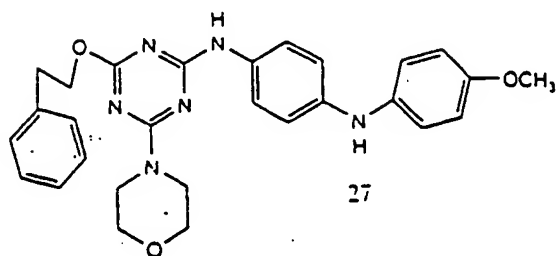
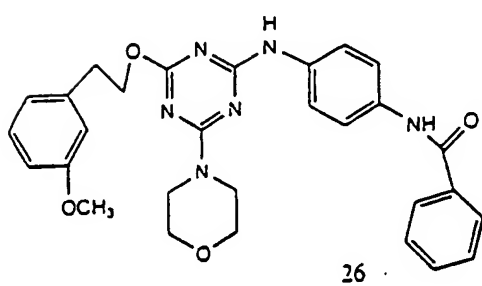
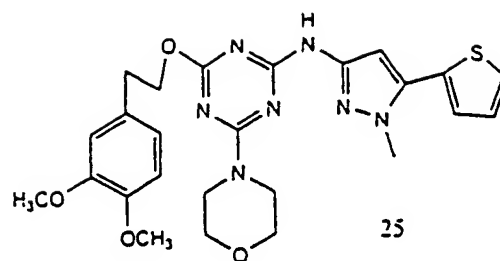
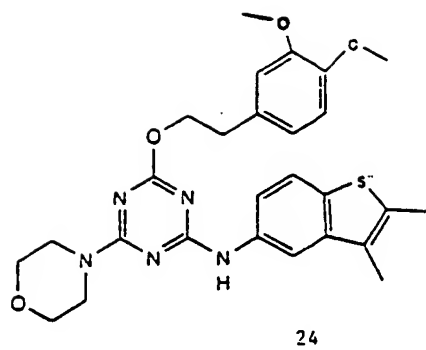
Set forth below are exemplary of compounds of this invention:











A pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of formula (I) is also within the scope of this invention. For example, a salt can be formed between a negatively charged substituent such as carboxylate and a positively charged counterion such as an alkali metal ion (e.g., a sodium ion or a potassium ion); an alkaline earth metal ion (e.g., a magnesium ion or a calcium ion); an ammonium ion ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ ); or an organic ammonium group such as tetramethylammonium ion or diisopropylethyl-ammonium ion.

As another example, if an amino substituent can form a salt with a negatively charged counterion. Suitable counterions include, but are not limited to, chloride, hydrochloride, bromide, iodide, sulfate, nitrate, phosphate, or acetate.

As used herein, alkyl is a straight or branched hydrocarbon chain containing 1 to 12 carbon atoms. Examples of alkyl include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, 2-methylhexyl, 3-ethyloctyl, and 4-ethyldecyl.

The term "alkenyl" refers to a straight or branched hydrocarbon chain containing 2 to 12 carbon atoms and one or more (e.g., 1-6) double bonds. The term "alkynyl" also refers to such a hydrocarbon chain, except that the chain contains one or more triple bonds instead of double bonds. Some examples of alkenyl and alkynyl are allyl, 2-butenyl, 2-pentenyl, 2-hexenyl, 2-butyne, 2-pentyne and 2-hexyne.

By cycloalkyl is meant a cyclic alkyl group containing 3 to 8 carbon atoms. Some examples of cycloalkyl are cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, adamantyl, and norbornyl. Heterocycloalkyl is a cycloalkyl group containing 1-3 heteroatoms such as

nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur. Examples of heterocycloalkyl include piperidinyl, piperazinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuryl, and morpholinyl. Cycloalkenyl is a cycloalkyl group containing one or more  
5 (e.g., 1-3) double bonds. Examples of such a group include cyclopentenyl, 1,4-cyclohexadienyl, cycloheptenyl, and cyclooctenyl groups. By the same token, heterocycloalkenyl is a heterocycloalkyl group containing one or more double bonds.

10 As used herein, aryl is an aromatic group containing 6-12 ring atoms and can contain fused rings, which may be saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic. Examples of an aryl group include phenyl, naphthyl, biphenyl, phenanthryl, and anthracyl. Heteroaryl is aryl containing 1-3  
15 heteroatoms such as nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur and can contain fused rings. Some examples of heteroaryl are pyridyl, furanyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, indolyl, benzofuranyl, and benzthiazolyl.

A cyclic moiety can be cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, or heteroaryl. A  
20 tricyclic moiety is a fused ring formed from three of the just-mentioned moieties. An example of a tricyclic moiety is dibenzocycloheptenyl. Heteroatoms such as nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur can be included in the  
25 cyclic moiety.

An amino group can be unsubstituted, mono-substituted, or di-substituted. It can be substituted with groups such as alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl. Halo refers  
30 to fluoro, chloro, bromo, or iodo.

Compounds of this invention show an unexpected high level of potency in inhibiting the production of IL-12.

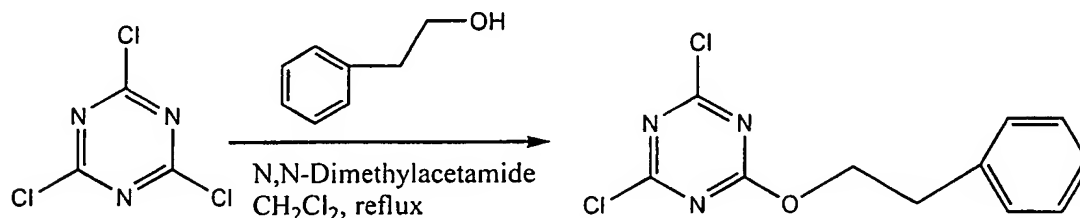
Other features or advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description of several embodiments, and also from the appending claims.

5

### Detailed Description of the Invention

A compound of formula (I) can be prepared in a stepwise manner by using cyanuric chloride as a starting material. Cyanuric chloride is commercially available.

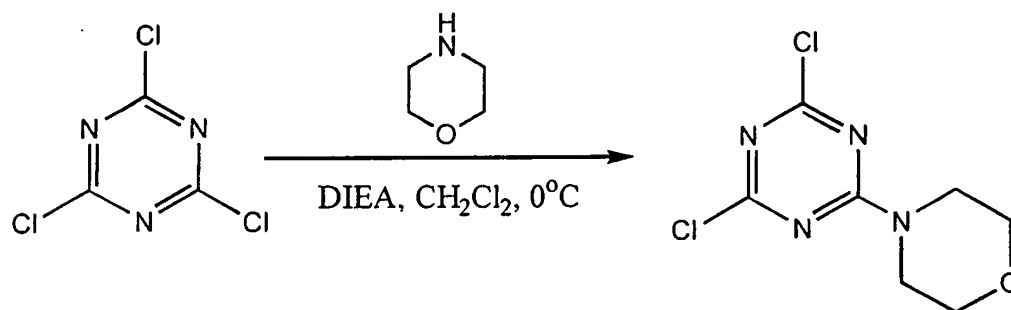
- 10 The three chloro groups of cyanuric chloride can be successively displaced by various nucleophilic substituents. The order of displacement is not of particular importance. For example, a chloro group of cyanuric chloride can be substituted with a nucleophile  
 15 W-B<sup>1</sup>-A<sup>1</sup>-H wherein A<sup>1</sup> is -O-, -S-, or -N(R<sup>b</sup>)-, and W and B<sup>1</sup> have been defined above, thus forming an ether linkage. Below is an example of a displacement reaction in which the nucleophile is phenethyl alcohol (i.e., A<sup>1</sup> is -O-, B<sup>1</sup> is -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-, and W  
 20 is phenyl):



- 25 A compound of formula (I) wherein A<sup>1</sup> is -(CH(R<sup>a</sup>))<sub>m</sub>- (R<sup>a</sup> and m have been defined above) can be prepared by first converting cyanuric chloride to an organometallic compound of group IA or IIA metal, e.g., a Grignard reagent. The organometallic compound acts as a

nucleophile and reacts with a compound with a good leaving group, e.g., an alkyl halide, to form a carbon-carbon linkage.

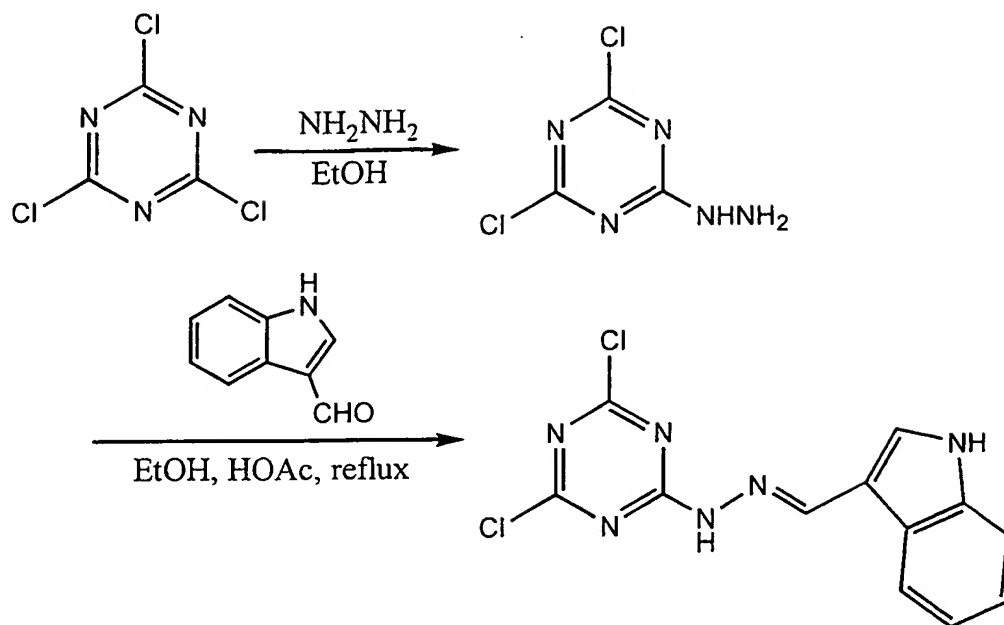
A chloro group of cyanuric chloride can also be  
5 displaced by a nucleophile ZH (Z has been defined above),  
e.g., morpholine, to form a morpholinyl triazine compound  
as shown in the following reaction (see, e.g., Step (2)  
of Example 1 for details):



10

A chloro group of cyanuric chloride can undergo yet  
another displacement reaction with a nucleophile H-A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>-Y  
wherein A<sup>2</sup> is an amine and B<sup>2</sup> is a bond to form an amino  
15 linkage between the triazine ring and the nucleophile.  
Some examples of such an amine include 3-aminocarbazole,  
6-aminobenzofuran, and 4-(3-methylphenyl)aniline. See,  
e.g., Step (3) of Example 5. On the other hand, as shown  
in the following reaction, if the desired linkage -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>-  
20 is  
-NH-N=CH-, the chloro group can be first displaced by  
hydrazine, and the primary amine of the coupled hydrazine  
moiety can then react with an aldehyde to form an imine  
linkage:

25



A compound of formula (I) wherein the linkage -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>-  
 5 is a carbon-carbon linkage can be formed, e.g., via an  
 organometallic intermediate described above and further  
 reacting such an intermediate with a nucleophile.

Other types of linkages can be prepared by similar  
 nucleophilic reactions. Sensitive moieties on both the  
 10 triazinyl intermediates and the nucleophiles can be  
 protected prior to coupling. For suitable protecting  
 groups, see, e.g., Greene, T. W., Protective Groups in  
 Organic Synthesis, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York  
 (1981).

15 A compound of formula (I) prepared by the methods  
 shown above can be purified by flash column  
 chromatography, preparative high performance liquid  
 chromatography, or crystallization.

A pharmaceutical composition containing an effective  
 20 amount of one or more compounds of this invention for

inhibiting IL-12 production or treating an IL-12 mediated disorders is also within the scope of this invention. Some examples of IL-12 mediated disorders include sepsis and autoimmune disorders, e.g., rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, psoriasis, and multiple sclerosis. The use of a compound of this invention or a salt thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting IL-12 production or treating the above-mentioned IL-12-mediated disorders is also within the scope of this invention.

Still another aspect of this invention is a method of treating an IL-12-mediated disorder, e.g., sepsis, by administering to a patient a pharmaceutical composition containing an effective amount of a compound of this invention or a salt thereof. An effective amount is defined as the amount which is required to confer a therapeutic effect on the treated patient, and is typically determined based on age, surface area, weight, and condition of the patient. The interrelationship of dosages for animals and humans (based on milligrams per meter squared of body surface) is described by Freireich et al., Cancer Chemother. Rep. 1966, 50, 219. Body surface area may be approximately determined from height and weight of the patient. See, e.g., Scientific Tables, Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Ardley, New York, 1970, 537. An effective amount of a compound of this invention can range from about 0.1 mg/kg to about 100 mg/kg. Effective doses will also vary, as recognized by those skilled in the art, dependant on route of administration, excipient usage, and the possibility of co-usage with other therapeutic treatments such as the use of other anti-inflammatory agents.

The pharmaceutical composition may be administered via the parenteral route, including orally, topically,



subcutaneously, intraperitoneally, intramuscularly, and intravenously. Examples of parenteral dosage forms include aqueous solutions, isotonic saline or 5% glucose of the active agent, or other well-known pharmaceutically acceptable excipient. Solubilizing agents such as cyclodextrins, or other solubilizing agents well-known to those familiar with the art, can be utilized as pharmaceutical excipients for delivery of the therapeutic compounds.

10 A compound of this invention can be formulated into dosage forms for other routes of administration utilizing conventional methods. For example, it can be formulated in a capsule, a gel seal, or a tablet for oral administration. Capsules may contain any standard  
15 pharmaceutically acceptable materials such as gelatin or cellulose. Tablets may be formulated in accordance with conventional procedures by compressing mixtures of a compound of this invention with a solid carrier and a lubricant. Examples of solid carriers include starch and  
20 sugar bentonite. A compound of this invention can also be administered in a form of a hard shell tablet or a capsule containing a binder, e.g., lactose or mannitol, a conventional filler, and a tableting agent.

The biological activities of a compound of this  
25 invention can be evaluated by a number of cell-based assays. One of such assays can be conducted using mononuclear cells from human peripheral blood (PBMC). Human Interferon gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ) and lipopolysaccharide are added to the cell-containing solutions to induce IL-12  
30 production. A solution containing a compound of this invention is added to each well. The level of inhibition of IL-12 production can be measured by determining the amount of P70 (i.e., IL-12) by using a sandwich ELISA

assay with anti-human IL-12 antibodies.  $IC_{50}$  of each test compound can then be determined and potent compounds are selected for further testing.

The selected compounds can be further assayed in parallel on two types of cells, PBMC and human leukemia mononuclear cell line (THP-1), for verification. More specifically, each test compound is added to a well of stimulated PBMC or THF-1 cells. PBMC are stimulated by a combination of IFN- $\gamma$  and LPS, and THP-1 cells are stimulated by a combination of IFN- $\gamma$  and pansorbin. The amount of P70 present in each well is then measured using a sandwich ELISA with anti-human IL-12 antibodies and  $IC_{50}$  is determined for each test compound.

The cytotoxicity of the test compounds of this invention can be determined by using a bio-reductive assay. Specifically, PBMC and THP-1 cells are incubated with the test compounds. Viability are evaluated by the ability of mitochondrial dehydrogenases of the incubated cells to reduce 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazole-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-sulphophenyl)-2H-tetrazolium (MTS) in the presence of phenazine methosulfate (PMS).

Compounds of this invention can also be evaluated by animal studies. One of such studies involves the ability of a test compound to inhibit septic shock. Animals are injected with LPS to induce septic shock. Mortality rate of the induced animals is monitored after administering to the animals a test compound and compared with that of a control experiment in which the induced animals are not treated.

The following specific examples, which describe syntheses and biological testings of compounds of this invention, are to be construed as merely illustrative,

and not limitative of the remainder of the disclosure in any way whatsoever.

In the following examples,  $^1\text{H}$  nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were recorded on a Varian Mercury 300  
5 MHz spectrometer. ES mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan Navigator mass spectrometer.

Without further elaboration, it is believed that one skilled in the art can, based on the description herein, utilize the present invention to its fullest extent. The  
10 following specific examples, which described syntheses, screening, and biological testing of various compounds of this invention, are therefore, to be construed as merely illustrative, and not limitative of the remainder of the disclosure in any way whatsoever. All publications  
15 recited herein, including patents, are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

#### Example 1

##### Preparation of compound 1

20 Step (1):

Cyanuric chloride (18.7 g, 0.10 mol) was added to a solution of methylene chloride (100 mL). Phenethyl alcohol (12.2 g, 0.10 mol) and N,N-dimethylacetamide (26.1 g, 0.30 mol) were then added after cyanuric chloride was  
25 dissolved. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 10 hours, cooled to room temperature, diluted with methylene chloride (100 ml), washed with water (100 ml, 3 times), dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and then filtered.

Step (2):

30 Morpholine (8.70 g, 0.10 mol) and diisopropylethylamine (12.9 g, 0.10 mol) were dissolved in 20 ml methylene chloride and added dropwise into the filtrate from step (1) at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ . The reaction was

monitored by TLC (EtOAc:Hexane, 1:4). After the product was formed, the reaction mixture was washed with 1N HCl (50 ml, 3 times), saturated NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (50 ml), brine (50 ml), then dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>. The solvent was removed under  
5 reduced pressure. The crude residue was recrystallized from acetone/water solution to give 20.5 g of the desired triazine monochloride intermediate.

#### Step (3)

The triazine monochloride intermediate (20.0 g,  
10 0.062 mol) was dissolved in 100 ml ethanol and added dropwise to a solution of hydrazine monohydrate (25.0 g, 0.62 mol) in ethanol (50 ml). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 minutes before 20 ml water was added. Excess ethanol was then removed under reduced  
15 pressure and the desired triazinyl hydrazine precipitated out which was collected by filtration and washed with water.

Triazinyl hydrazine (316 mg, 1.0 mmol) and indole 3-carboxylaldehyde (145 mg, 1.0 mmol) were added to 5 ml  
20 methanol and warmed to form a homogeneous solution. Two drops of glacial acetic acid was then added. After the reaction mixture was allowed to stand at room temperature for 10 hours, the product precipitated which was then filtered, washed with methanol, and dried under reduced  
25 pressure to yield compound 1 (395 mg, 89%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CD<sub>3</sub>COCD<sub>3</sub>) 8.34 (bd, 1, *J*=8.0), 8.28 (s, 1), 7.60 (s, 1), 7.39 (d, 1, *J*=8.2), 7.34-7.69 (m, 7), 4.60 (t, 2, *J*=7.4), 3.90-3.86 (m, 4), 3.79-3.75 (m, 4), 3.30 (t, 2, *J*=7.4); MS (ESI): *m/z* 444 (M+H<sup>+</sup>).

30

#### Example 2

#### Preparation of compound 2

Steps (1) and (2) of the preparation were prepared in an identical manner described in Example 1 except that 2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethanol was used instead of phenethyl alcohol.

5 Step (3):

Triazinyl monochloride (330 mg, 1.0 mmol) was added to 10 ml of 1,4-dioxane, followed by the addition of 3-aminocarbazole (182 mg, 1.0 mmol) and diisopropylethylamine (129 mg, 1.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was heated to 100°C for 8 hours, cooled to room temperature, diluted with ethyl acetate (50 ml), washed with water and brine, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , filtered, and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude residue was purified by column chromatography (silica; EtOAc/hexane : 3/7) to yield 270 mg of compound 2 (58% yield). ESMS: calculated for  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_6\text{O}_3$ : 496.5; found: 497.2 (M+H).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO) 2.92 (t, 2H,  $J=6.7$ ), 3.63-3.69 (m, 8H), 3.71 (s, 3H), 4.41 (t, 2H,  $J=7.2$ ), 6.82 (br, s, 2H), 6.87 (d, 1H,  $J=7.8$ ), 7.08 (br, s, 1H), 7.17 (br, s, 2H), 7.24 (d, 1H,  $J=8.1$ ), 7.31-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.49 (br, s, 1H), 7.88 (br, s, 1H), 8.24 (s, 1H), 9.49 (s, 1H), 11.12 (s, 1H).

Example 3

25 Preparation of compound 3

Step (1):

Cyanuric chloride (2 g, 10.8 mmol) and 4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenethyl alcohol (1.6 g, 10.8 mmol) were dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (25 ml). N,N-dimethylacetamide (2.8 g, 32.5 mmol) was then added. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 3 hours, washed with water (3 times), and then dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$ . The dried solution was

concentrated under reduced pressure to yield the desired triazine dichloride intermediate.

Step (2):

The triazine dichloride intermediate (3.0 g, 10 mmol) was dissolved in acetone (30 ml). After the acetone solution was cooled to 0°C, a 10 ml aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate (0.842 g, 10 mmol) was added to the acetone solution with stirring. Morpholine (0.87 ml, 10 mmol) was added dropwise to mixture and white precipitate was formed within 10 minutes. The precipitate was filtered and washed with water (3 times) and dried under vacuum to yield the desired triazine monochloride intermediate (4.0 g, >98%) as a white solid.

Step (3):

The triazine monochloride intermediate (3.5 g, 9.98 mmol) was dissolved in 20 ml of THF, followed by the addition of a solution of hydrazine (3.2 ml, 99 mmol) in ethanol (20 ml). The mixture was allowed to react until a white precipitate was formed (in about 10 minutes). The solid was filtered, washed 3 times with water, and dried under vacuum to afford 3.1 g of the triazine hydrazine intermediate as a white solid.

The triazine hydrazine (0.50 g, 1.44 mmol) was dissolved in methanol (10 ml) and stirred at room temperature. Indole-3-carboxyaldehyde (0.21 g, 1.44 mmol) was added to the solution, followed by the addition of two drops of acetic acid. The reaction mixture was refluxed for 5 minutes, and the product precipitated upon cooling. The precipitate was filtered, washed 3 times with water, and dried under vacuum to afford compound 3 (0.45 g, 66%) as a pale yellow solid. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.02 (t, 2H, J=7.2), 3.74 (m, 4H), 3.82 (m, 4H), 3.90 (s, -OCH<sub>3</sub>, 3H), 4.13 (m, 2H), 4.56 (t, 2H, J=6.6), 6.71 (d,

1H), 6.83 (m, 2H), 7.19 (m, 3H), 7.38 (d, 1H,  $J=8.4$ ),  
7.52 (sharp d, 1H,  $J=3.3$ ), 8.38 (d, 1H,  $J=7.2$ ), 8.50 (s,  
1H). ESMS calculated for  $C_{25}H_{27}N_7O_4$ : 489.53; found: 490.0  
(M+H).

5

#### Example 4

##### Preparation of compound 4

###### Step (1):

Cyanuric chloride (13.66 g, 74 mmol) was dissolved  
10 in methylene chloride (100 ml) at  $-78^{\circ}\text{C}$ , followed by the  
addition of diisopropylethylamine (12.9 ml, 74 mmol).  
The reaction mixture was stirred for 5 minutes.  
Morpholine (6.46 ml, 74 mmol) was added dropwise into the  
reaction mixture in 10 minutes. The resulting white  
15 precipitate was filtered, washed with water, and dried to  
afford the desired intermediate in quantitative yield (17  
g, 100%).

###### Step (2):

2-(2-Hydroxyethyl)pyridine (2 g, 16.2 mmol) was  
20 dissolved in THF (20 ml) at  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ . 6.5 ml of 2.5 M n-butyl  
lithium (16.2 mmol) was added into the pyridine solution  
dropwise in 5 minutes. The resulting solution was then  
added dropwise via cannula to a triazine dichloride  
solution (3.8 g, 16.2 mmol, in THF) at  $-78^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The  
25 reaction was allowed to warm to room temperature for  
overnight to yield the triazine monochloride intermediate  
(2.8 g, 54%) as a white powder.

###### Step (3):

Hydrazine (0.5 ml, 15.5 mmol, 5 eq.) was dissolved  
30 in 10 ml ethanol at room temperature. The triazine  
monochloride intermediate (1 g, 3.11 mmol) was added to a  
solution of ethanol (20 ml) and heated to  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$  before  
adding into the hydrazine solution. After stirring for

30 minutes, white crystals precipitated, which were then filtered, washed with water and air dried to yield the triazine hydrazine intermediate (781 mg, 78%) as a white powder.

- 5 Indole-3-aldehyde (1.05 g, 7.25 mmol) and the triazine hydrazine intermediate (2.3 g, 7.25 mmol) were added to 30 ml of methanol at room temperature. 5 ml of acetic acid was added to the reaction mixture and was refluxed for 5 minutes. Upon cooling, a white
- 10 precipitate was formed, which was filtered and washed with water to yield compound 4 as a white powder (1.7 g, 52%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 3.28 (t, 2H, J=6.9), 3.7 (broad s, 4H), 3.86 (broad s, 4H), 4.73 (broad t, 2H), 7.14-7.24 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.30 (m, 3H), 7.37 (d, 1H, J=8.1), 7.45 (d,
- 15 1H, J=2.4), 7.59 (t, 1H, J=7.5), 8.14 (s, 1H), 8.42 (d, 1H, J=7.8), 8.49 (s, 1H), 8.56 (d, 1H, J=8.5). ESMS calculated for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>8</sub>O<sub>2</sub>: 444.49; found: 445.2 (M+H).

#### Example 5

##### 20 Preparation of compound 5

Steps (1) and (2) of the preparation were prepared in an identical manner described in Example 3 except that (3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethanol was used instead of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenethyl alcohol.

##### 25 Step (3):

- The triazine monochloride intermediate (760 mg, 2.0 mmol) was dissolved in 10 ml DMF. 4-(N-(2-methoxyphenyl)amino)aniline (429 mg, 2.0 mmol) and DIEA (387 mg, 3.0 mmol) were then added to the DMF solution.
- 30 The reaction mixture was allowed to react at 100°C for 15 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the mixture was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 ml), washed with H<sub>2</sub>O (3 X 25 ml), brine (25 ml), dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, filtered, and



concentrated under reduced pressure. The resulting crude residue was further purified by crystallization from acetone/water to give 970 mg of compound 5 (87%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.36 (bd, 2, *J*=8.8), 7.02 (d, 2, *J*=8.8), 6.92-6.78 (m, 8), 5.44 (s, 1), 4.47 (t, 2, *J*=7.4), 3.86 (s, 3), 3.85 (s, 3), 3.84 (s, 3), 3.83-3.78 (m, 4), 3.74-3.69 (m, 4), 3.02 (t, 2, *J*=7.4); MS (ESI): *m/z* 559 (M+H<sup>+</sup>).

### Example 6

#### 10 Preparation of compound 6

Steps (1) and (2) of the preparation were identical to the corresponding steps described in Example 5.

Step (3):

15 Triazine monochloride intermediate (0.3 g), 5-thienyl-2-aminothiophene (0.143 g), anhydrous K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (0.545 g) were added to 10 ml of DMSO. The reaction mixture was heated at 100-120°C and stirred for overnight. After cooling to room temperature, water was added and then extracted by CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The extract was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and  
20 evaporated. Residue was purified by column chromatography with a mixture of hexane:ethyl acetate (1:1) as an eluent. Yield = 257 mg (62%). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), 7.61 (m, 1H); 7.17-7.15 (m, 1H); 7.10-6.92 (m, 2H); 6.91 (d, *J*=3.9 Hz, 1H); 6.86-6.76 (m, 3 H); 6.48 (d, *J*=3.9 Hz, 1H); 4.50 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H); 3.97-3.68 (m, 8H); 3.86 (s, 6H); 3.06 (t, *J*=7.2 Hz, 2H); MS *m/z*: 526 (M+H).

Example 7Preparation of Compound 7

Compound 7 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 2. ESMS: calculated for  $C_{30}H_{31}N_5O_4$ :  
5 526; found: 527.4 (M+H).  $^1H$ -NMR (DMSO) 2.93 (t, 2H,  $J=6.9$ ), 3.63-3.69 (m, 14H), 4.44 (t, 2H,  $J=7.0$ ), 6.78 (br s, 2H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 7.1 (br s, 1H), 7.33-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.5 (m, 1H), 7.8-7.95 (br s, 1H), 8.45 (s, 1H), 9.49 (s, 1H), 11.1 (s, 1H).

10

Example 8Preparation of Compound 8

Compound 8 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 2. ESMS Calculated for  $C_{22}H_{29}N_7O_2$ :  
15 495.0; found: 496.2 (M+H).  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO) 1.16 (t, 3H,  $J=7.5$ ), 2.58 (q, 2H,  $J=7.5$ ), 3.12 (t, 2H,  $J=7.0$ ), 3.63-3.72 (m, 8H), 4.62 (t, 2H,  $J=7.2$ ), 7.08 (m, 1H), 7.24 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.53 (m, 1H), 8.36 (s, 1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 9.49 (s, 1H), 11.10 (s, 1H).

20

Example 9Preparation of Compound 9

Compound 9 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 6.  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz,  $CDCl_3$ ) 9.80 (s, 1H); 7.39-7.33 (m, 2H); 7.10-7.04 (m, 2H); 6.86-6.78 (m, 3H); 4.60-4.53 (m, 4H); 3.96-3.58 (m, 8H); 3.87 (s, 6H); 3.08 (t,  $J=7.5$  Hz, 2H); 1.51 (t,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 3 H). MS m/z: 582 (M+H) $^+$ :

Example 10Preparation of Compound 10

Compound 10 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ):  $\delta$   
5 3.7-3.9 (m, 8H), 4.25 (t,  $J=5.4$  Hz, 2H), 4.58 (t,  $J=5.4$   
Hz, 2H), 7.1 (brs, 1H), 7.19-7.23 (m, 1H), 7.36 (d,  $J=7.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.41-7.48 (m, 4H), 7.97 (d,  $J=7.5$  Hz, 1H),  
8.18 (s, 1H), 8.22 (brs, 1H). MS 525.2 (M+H).

10 Example 11Preparation of Compound 11

Compound 11 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 2. ESMS: calculated for  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_5\text{O}_5$ :  
527.5; found: 528.2 (M+H).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO) 2.94 (t, 2H,  
15  $J=6.9$ ), 3.64-3.70 (m, 14H), 4.46 (t, 2H,  $J=6.9$ ), 6.79 (q,  
2H,  $J=6.9$ ), 6.90 (s, 1H), 7.33 (m, 1H), 7.49 (t, 1H,  
 $J=8.4$ ), 7.61 (m, 2H), 7.85 (br s, 1H), 8.49 (s, 1H), 9.70  
(s, 1H).

20 Example 12Preparation of Compound 12

Compound 12 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 3. ESMS: calculated for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{27}\text{N}_7\text{O}_3$ :  
503; found: 504.2 (M+H).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (DMSO) 2.95 (br s, 2H),  
25 3.63-3.72 (m, 14H), 3.85 (br s, 1H), 4.41-4.52 (m, 2H),  
6.79-6.91 (m, 4H), 7.13 (br s, 2H), 7.37 (d, 1H,  $J=8.1$ ),  
7.68 (d, 1H,  $J=2.4$ ), 8.27 (s, 1H), 8.36 (br s, 1H), 10.88  
(s, 1H), 11.40 (s, 1H).

**Example 13****Preparation of Compound 13**

Compound 13 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 3. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>): δ 1.95 (m, 2H),  
5 3.24 (m, 2H), 3.6-3.8 (m, 8H), 4.0-4.1 (m, 4H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.97 (brs, 1H), 7.07 (t, J=7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.15 (d, J=7.5Hz, 1H), 7.19 (m, 1H), 7.39 (d, J=7.5Hz, 1H), 7.64 (s, 2H), 8.35 (m, 1H), 8.44 (m, 1H), 11.36 (s, 1H). MS m/e 447 (M+H).

10

**Example 14****Preparation of Compound 14**

Compound 14 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 2. ESMS Calculated for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub> :  
15 515.5; found: 515.2 (M+H). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.85 (m, 4H), 2.62 (t, 2H), 2.71 (t, 2H), 2.93 (t, 2H, J=7.8), 3.66 (m, 8H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 4.40 (t, 2H, J=7.2), 6.60-6.71 (m, 3H), 6.86 (dd, 1H, J=2.7), 7.18-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.69 (s, 1H).

20

**Example 15****Preparation of Compound 15**

Compound 15 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 8.48-8.35 (m, 3H),  
25 8.04 (s, 1H), 7.66 (s, 1H), 7.44-7.25 (m, 8H), 4.58 (t, 2H, J=7.6), 3.90-3.86 (m, 4H), 3.82-3.78 (m, 4H), 3.13 (t, 2H, J=7.6), 2.67 (s, 3H); MS (ESI): m/z 486 (M+H).

**Example 16****Preparation of Compound 16**

Compound 16 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 4. ESMS: calculated for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>29</sub>N<sub>7</sub>O<sub>2</sub>:  
30 495.0; found: 496.2 (M+H). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO) 1.16 (t, 3H,

$J=7.5$ ), 2.58 (q, 2H,  $J=7.5$ ), 3.12 (t, 2H,  $J=7.0$ ),  
3.63-3.72 (m, 8H), 4.62 (t, 2H,  $J=7.2$ ), 7.08 (m, 1H),  
7.24 (m, 1H), 7.31-7.44 (m, 5H), 7.53 (m, 1H), 8.36 (s,  
1H), 8.42 (s, 1H), 9.49 (s, 1H), 11.10 (s, 1H).

5

#### Example 17

##### Preparation of Compound 17

Compound 17 was prepared in a similar manner as  
described in Example 6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ ) 7.45  
10 (s, 1H); 6.83-6.75 (m, 3H); 6.60 (br s, 1H); 6.54 (m,  
2H); 5.95 (s, 1H); 4.52 (t,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 2 H); 3.90-3.67 (m,  
8H); 3.89, 3.87 (2s, 6H); 3.00 (t,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 2H); MS  $m/z$ :  
494 (M+H).

#### 15 Example 18

##### Preparation of Compound 18

Compound 18 was prepared in a similar manner as  
described in Example 6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ), ppm:  
7.75 (s, 1H); 6.80-6.70 (m, 3H); 5.26 (br.s. 1H); 4.50  
20 (t,  $J=7.1$  Hz, 2H); 4.36 (q,  $J=7.0$  Hz, 2H); 3.83, 3.81  
(2s, 6H); 3.71-3.60 (m, 8H); 3.98 (t,  $J=7.1$  Hz, 2H); 1.24  
(t,  $J=7.0$  Hz, 3H); MS  $m/z$ : 582 (M+Na).

#### Example 19

##### 25 Preparation of Compound 19

Compound 19 was prepared in a similar manner as  
described in Example 6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ) 8.74-8.66 (m, 1H),  
8.11 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.24 (m, 9H), 4.63 (t, 2H,  $J=7.7$ ),  
3.90-3.86 (m, 4H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 3.81-3.77 (m, 4H), 3.65  
30 (s, 3H), 3.17 (t, 2H,  $J=7.7$ ); MS (ESI):  $m/z$  472 (M+H).

#### Example 20

##### Preparation of Compound 20

Compound 20 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 10.1 (s, 1H), 9.27 (bs, 1H), 8.19 (s, 1H), 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.40-7.21 (m, 7H), 6.89-6.85 (m, 1H), 4.52 (t, 2H, *J*=7.4), 3.89-3.85 (m, 4H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 3.81-3.77 (m, 4H), 3.09 (t, 2H, *J*=7.4); MS (ESI): *m/z* 474 (M+H).

#### Example 21

##### Preparation of Compound 21

Compound 21 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 6. ESMS Calculated for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>6</sub>: 515.5; found: 515.2 (M+H). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 1.85 (m, 4H), 2.62 (t, 2H), 2.71 (t, 2H), 2.93 (t, 2H, *J*=7.8), 3.66 (m, 8H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 3.82 (s, 3H), 4.40 (t, 2H, *J*=7.2), 6.60-6.71 (m, 3H), 6.86 (dd, 1H, *J*=2.7), 7.18-7.21 (m, 2H), 7.69 (s, 1H).

#### Example 22

##### Preparation of Compound 22

Compound 22 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 6. ESMS Calculated for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>32</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>4</sub>: 504.5; found: 505.2 (M+H). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO) 2.05 (br s, 3H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 2.91 (t, 2H, *J*=7.2), 3.61-3.70 (m, 14H), 4.41 (t, 2H, *J*=7.2), 6.67-6.9 (m, 4H), 7.08 (s, 2H), 7.76 (m, 1H), 9.26 (s, 1H), 10.49 (s, 1H).

#### Example 23

##### Preparation of Compound 23

Compound 23 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 6. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.85-7.20 (series of m, 11H), 7.08 (bs, 1H), 4.53 (t, 2H, *J*=7.4), 3.85-3.81 (m, 4H), 3.79-3.75 (m, 4H), 3.11 (t, 2H, *J*=7.4); MS (ESI): *m/z* 480 (M+H).

Example 24Preparation of Compound 24

Compound 24 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 6. ESMS Calculated for  $C_{27}H_{31}N_5O_4S$  :  
5 521.6; found: 522.2 (M+H).  $^1H$  NMR (DMSO) 2.42 (s, 2H),  
2.93 (t, 2H,  $J=7.2$ ), 3.64-3.71 (m, 14H), 4.44 (t, 2H,  
 $J=7.5$ ), 6.75 (d, 1H,  $J=9.3$ ), 6.84 (d, 1H,  $J=8.4$ ), 6.88  
(s, 1H), 7.38 (d, 1H,  $J=8.7$ ), 7.68 (d, 1H,  $J=8.7$ ), 8.21  
10 (s, 1H), 9.63 (s, 1H).

Example 25Preparation of Compound 25

Compound 25 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 6.  $^1H$  NMR (300 MHz, DMSO  $\delta$ -6)  
15 10.50, 9.80 (2 br s, 1H) 7.43 (s, 1H); 7.59-7.29 (m, 2H);  
7.18-7.02 (m, 1H); 6.96-6.73 (m, 3H); 6.30 (br s, 1H);  
4.43 (t,  $J=7.2$  Hz, 2H); 3.78-3.58 (m, 8H); 3.71 (s, 6H);  
2.94 (t,  $J=7.2$  Hz); MS m/z: 510 [M+H].

20

Example 26Preparation of Compound 26

Compound 26 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 5.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CD_3OD$ ) 8.17 (ddd, 1H,  
25  $J=8.5, 1.7, 1.7$ ), 7.92 (ddd, 2H,  $J=6.9, 1.7, 1.7$ ),  
7.76-7.46 (m, 9H), 7.33-7.18 (m, 2H), 4.55 (t, 2H,  
 $J=7.2$ ), 3.85-3.81 (m, 4H), 3.78-3.74 (m, 4H), 3.08 (t,  
2H,  $J=7.2$ ); MS (ESI): m/z 497 (M+H).

30 Example 27Preparation of Compound 27

Compound 27 was prepared in a similar manner as described in Example 5.  $^1H$  NMR ( $CDCl_3$ ) 7.36 (bd, 2H,

$J=8.8$ ), 7.35-7.22 (m, 5H), 7.03 (ddd, 2H,  $J=9.0$ , 2, 2),  
6.90 (ddd, 2H,  $J=8.8$ , 2, 2), 6.85 (ddd, 2H,  $J=9.0$ , 2, 2),  
6.75 (bs, 1H), 5.43 (s, 1H), 4.50 (t, 2H,  $J=7.7$ ),  
3.84-3.79 (m, 4H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 3.75-3.70 (m, 4H), 3.09  
5 (t, 2H,  $J=7.7$ ); MS (ESI): m/z 499 (M+H).

### Example 28

#### Preparation of Compound 28

Compound 28 was prepared in a similar manner as  
10 described in Example 6.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (300 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ), ppm:  
8.37-8.24 (m, 1H); 8.10-7.95 (m, 2H); 6.88-6.67 (m, 4H);  
6.61 (br s, 1H); 4.51 (t,  $J=6.9$  Hz, 2H); 3.90-3.66 (m,  
8H); 3.86 (s, 6H); 3.02 (t,  $J=6.9$  Hz, 2H); MS m/z: 544  
(M+H).

15

### Example 29

Mononuclear cells from human peripheral blood (PBMC)  
were harvested from a leukopak using standard procedures  
and diluted to three million per ml with RPMI. Also  
20 present in the RPMI solution were fetal calf serum (10%),  
penicillin, streptomycin and L-glutamate. Human  
Interferon gamma ( $\text{IFN-}\gamma$ ) was added to the solution  
containing the cells at the concentration of 60 units/ml  
(obtained from Boehringer Mannheim; catalog no. 1040596).  
25 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of this solution was then added to each well in a  
96 well plate with U-shaped bottoms. The plate was then  
incubated overnight under a 7%  $\text{CO}_2$  atmosphere at 37°C. A  
RPMI stock solution (4X) was prepared for each test  
compound of this invention. Each test compound was added  
30 to a well of the 96 well plate with a final concentration  
of 1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , followed by the addition of a RPMI stock  
solution (4X concentration) containing lipopolysaccharide  
(LPS; obtained from Serratia Marcescens Sigma; catalog



no. L-4766) with a final concentration of 1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . The plate was gently vortexed and incubated for 16 hours under a 7%  $\text{CO}_2$  atmosphere at 37°C. After harvesting the supernatant from each well, the amount of P70 in the  
5 supernatant was measured using a sandwich ELISA with anti-human IL-12 antibodies (obtained from R&D systems; catalog no. mAb 611 and catalog no. BAF219). A number of the test compounds of this invention demonstrated a level of above 70% in inhibiting IL-12 production when compared  
10 to the data obtained from a control experiment in which no compound was added. Nine compounds were selected for further testing described in the following example.

#### Example 30

15 The specificity of the nine selected compound (see Example 29) was tested on PBMC and human leukemia mononuclear cell line THP-1 in parallel to verify results.

PBMC were plated in wells of a 96-well plate at a  
20 concentration of 500,000 cells per well and stimulated by adding IFN- $\gamma$  (200 U/mL) and LPS (1  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ). THP-1 cells were plated in wells of a 96-well plate at a concentration of 800,000 cells per well (100  $\mu\text{l}$ ). Human IFN- $\gamma$  was added at 2000 U/ml. The plate was incubated  
25 overnight under a 7%  $\text{CO}_2$  atmosphere at 37°C. Each selected test compound (in 4X RPMI solution) was then added to a well of the 96 well plate with a final concentration of 1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , which was then followed by the addition of Staph Aureus Cowan I (SAC or Pansorbin;  
30 obtained from Calbiochem; Lot # B15921) with a final concentration of 0.05%. The plate was then gently vortexed and incubated for 16 hours under a 7%  $\text{CO}_2$  atmosphere at 37°C. Supernatant was harvested and was

assayed for the amount of P70 present by using a sandwich ELISA with anti-human IL-12 antibodies (obtained from R&D systems; catalog no. mAb 611 and catalog no. BAF219).

The nine selected test compounds all showed similar  
5 biological activities towards both PBMC and THP-1 cells.  
Among these selected compounds, one showed an  $IC_{50}$  of  
about 30 nM for the PBMC cell line and an  $IC_{50}$  of about  
200 nM for the THP-1 cell line; six showed an  $IC_{50}$  of  
between 1-3 nM for the PBMC cell line and an  $IC_{50}$  of  
10 between 8-20 nM for the THP-1 cell line; and two  
compounds unexpectedly showed an  $IC_{50}$  of about 0.1 nM for  
the PBMC cell line and an  $IC_{50}$  of about 0.8 nM for the  
THP-1 cell line. The two most potent compounds showed a  
10-fold increase in inhibiting IL-12 production over a  
15 known anti-inflammatory compound, dexamethazone.

Example 31

The nine selected compounds (see Example 29) were also assayed for cytotoxicity using a Cell Titer 96 Aqueous Non-radioactive kit (obtained from Promega, order no. G5421). Phenazine methosulfate (obtained from Sigma; catalog no. P 5812) was added as an electron donor to wells containing PBMC (500,000 cells per well) and test compounds (final concentration of test compounds = 1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ). 3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazole-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxy-phenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)-2H-tetrazolium (MTS) was then added. Cells were incubated for 2 hours under a 7%  $\text{CO}_2$  atmosphere at 37°C. Supernatant was harvested and its absorbance at 490 nm was recorded. Cell viability data was obtained from the level of bioreduction of MTS by mitochondrial dehydrogenases. The data was then compared to that obtained from a control experiment in which no test compound was added to the cells. The cytotoxicity assay was also carried out with THP-1 cells. A test compound is considered cytotoxic if the absorbance is under 70% of that of the control.

The nine test compounds all showed similar trend in cytotoxicity toward the two cell lines. For the PBMC cell line, one compound showed a  $\text{CC}_{50}$  of under 1  $\mu\text{M}$ ; five compounds showed a  $\text{CC}_{50}$  of between 2-10  $\mu\text{M}$ ; and three compounds showed a  $\text{CC}_{50}$  of 20  $\mu\text{M}$  or above. For the THP-1 cell line, one compound showed a  $\text{CC}_{50}$  of about 2  $\mu\text{M}$ ; five compounds showed a  $\text{CC}_{50}$  of about 20  $\mu\text{M}$ ; and three compounds showed a  $\text{CC}_{50}$  of above 20  $\mu\text{M}$ . Compared with an assay in which dexamethazone was added, four compounds showed a lower cytotoxicity toward the PBMC cell line, and three compounds showed a lower cytotoxicity toward the THP-1 cell line.

Example 32

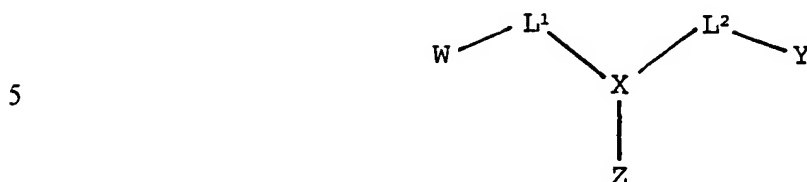
Three compounds of this invention were tested in an animal study using Balb/c mice. The mice were divided into groups of five. Septic shock was induced in each of  
5 them by single intradermal injection of LPS (1  $\mu$ g/mL) in the foot pad. After 24 hours, a group of mice received (1) no treatment; another group received (2) vehicle only (10% DMSO and 18% Cremophor RH40); or three groups received (3) test compounds. More specifically, each  
10 group received a different test compound at a dosage of 10-20 mg/kg. The mice were dosed daily for three days and the mortality rate in each group was then recorded. The mice all died in the groups that received no treatment or vehicle only. Among the groups that  
15 received test compounds, two had a survival rate of 60% and 80%.

Other Embodiments

From the above description, one skilled in the art  
20 can easily ascertain the essential characteristics of the present invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various usages and conditions. Thus, other embodiments are also  
25 within the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the following formula:



10 wherein

X is triazinyl;

L<sup>1</sup> is -A<sup>1</sup>-B<sup>1</sup>-, in which -A<sup>1</sup>- is -(CH(R<sup>a</sup>))<sub>m</sub>-, -O-, -S-,  
 or -N(R<sup>b</sup>)- and -B<sup>1</sup>- is -(CH(R<sup>c</sup>))<sub>n</sub>- or a bond, each of R<sup>a</sup>  
 and R<sup>c</sup>, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy,  
 15 hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl,  
 amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro,  
 alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl,  
 alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl,  
 alkylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl,  
 20 aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl; R<sup>b</sup> being hydrogen,  
 alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl,  
 heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl; and each of m and n,  
 independently, being 1-8;

W is cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or  
 25 heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy,  
 hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl,  
 amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro,  
 alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl,  
 alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or  
 30 alkylcarbonyloxy;

L<sup>2</sup> is -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>-, in which A<sup>2</sup> is a bond, -N(R<sup>1</sup>)-, or  
 -(-C(R<sup>2</sup>)(R<sup>3</sup>))-<sub>p</sub>-, and B<sup>2</sup> is a bond, -N=C(R<sup>4</sup>)-, -C(R<sup>5</sup>)=N-,  
 -C(R<sup>6</sup>)=C(R<sup>7</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)=N(R<sup>9</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-C(R<sup>11</sup>)(R<sup>12</sup>)-,  
 -O-C(R<sup>13</sup>)(R<sup>14</sup>)-, -CO-C(R<sup>15</sup>)(R<sup>16</sup>)-, -CO-N(R<sup>17</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>18</sup>)-CO-,

-CO-, -CO-O-, -CO-S-, -S-C(R<sup>19</sup>)(R<sup>20</sup>)-, -CS-C(R<sup>21</sup>)(R<sup>22</sup>)-, -CS-N(R<sup>23</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>24</sup>)-CS-, -CS-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, provided that -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>- cannot be a bond; or -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>- is -O-, -S-, -(-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-O)-<sub>r</sub>-, -(-N(R<sup>25</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-CO-)<sub>t</sub>-, or -(-N(R<sup>26</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>u</sub>-N(R<sup>27</sup>)-)<sub>v</sub>-,

- 5 each of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>19</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>, R<sup>21</sup>, R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>23</sup>, R<sup>24</sup>, R<sup>25</sup>, R<sup>26</sup>, and R<sup>27</sup>, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl; and each of p, q, r, s, t, u, and v, independently, being 1, 2, or 3;

- Y is -R'-L'-R" wherein R' is a bond, or cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, or alkoxycarbonylimino; L' is a bond, -  
 15 O-, -S-, -N(R<sup>28</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>29</sup>)-CO-, -CO-N(R<sup>30</sup>)-, -CO-O-, or -O-CO-, each of R<sup>28</sup>, R<sup>29</sup>, and R<sup>30</sup>, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl; and R" is cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or  
 20 alkylcarbonyloxy; and  
 25  
 30

Z is morpholinyl optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo,

haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy;

5 or a salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R<sup>n</sup> is a tricyclic fused aryl or heteroaryl.

10 3. The compound of claim 2, wherein R<sup>n</sup> is a tricyclic fused aryl or heteroaryl.

4. The compound of claim 4, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is -N(R<sup>1</sup>)- and B<sup>2</sup> is a bond.

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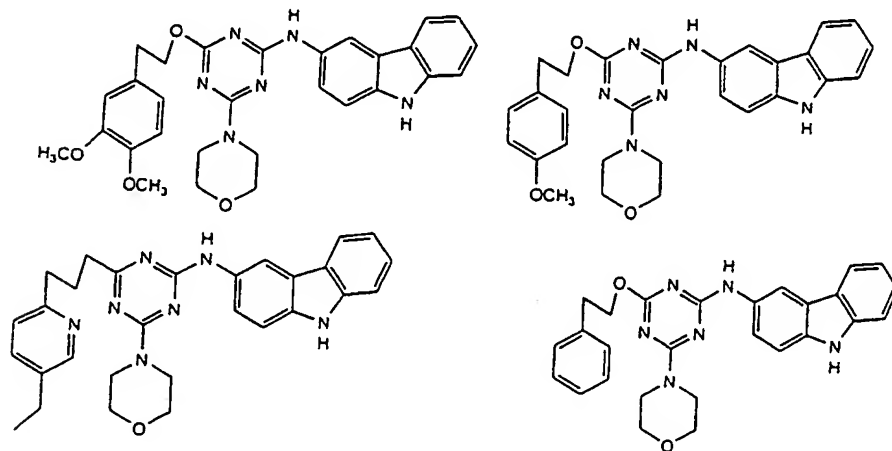
5. The compound of claim 4, wherein -A<sup>1</sup>-B<sup>1</sup>- is -O- or - (CH(R<sup>a</sup>))<sub>m</sub>- in which R<sup>a</sup> is hydrogen and m is 1-3, and W is aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, or halo.

20

6. The compound of claim 5, where the compound is

25

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7. The compound of claim 2, wherein  $A^2$  is  $-N(R^1)-$  and  $B^2$  is a bond, or  $-A^2-B^2-$  is  $-O-$ .

5 8. The compound of claim 7, wherein  $A^2$  is  $-N(R^1)-$  and  $B^2$  is a bond,  $R^1$  being hydrogen or alkyl.

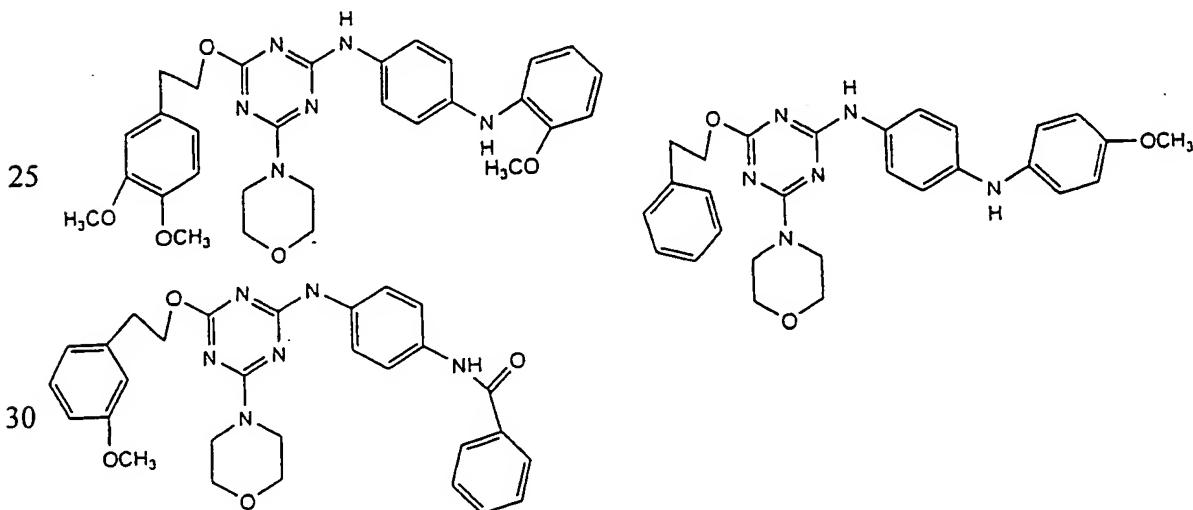
9. The compound of claim 8, wherein  $R^1$  is aryl or heteroaryl.

10

10. The compound of claim 9, wherein  $L^1$  is  $-O-$ ,  $-N(R^{28})-$ , or  $-N(R^{29})-CO-$ , each of  $R^{28}$  and  $R^{29}$ , independently, being hydrogen or alkyl.

15 11. The compound of claim 10, wherein  $-A^1-B^1-$  is  $-O-$  or  $-(CH(R^a))_m-$  in which  $R^a$  is hydrogen and  $m$  is 1-3, and  $W$  is aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, or halo.

20 12. The compound of claim 11, where the compound is





13. The compound of claim 7, wherein  $-A^2-B^2-$  is  $-O-$ .

5        14. The compound of claim 13, wherein  $R''$  is aryl or heteroaryl.

15        15. The compound of claim 14, wherein  $L'$  is  $-O-$ ,  $-N(R^{28})-$ , or  $-N(R^{29})-CO-$ , each of  $R^{28}$  and  $R^{29}$ , independently, being hydrogen or alkyl.

15        16. The compound of claim 15, wherein  $-A^1-B^1-$  is  $-O-$  or  $-(CH(R^a))_m-$  in which  $R^a$  is hydrogen and  $m$  is 1-3, and  $W$  is aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, or halo.

20        17. The compound of claim 16, where the compound is

20        18. The compound of claim 2, wherein  $A^2$  is  $-N(R^1)-$  and  $B^2$  is  $-N=C(R^4)-$ ,  $-C(R^5)=N-$ ,  $-C(R^6)=C(R^7)-$ , or  $-N(R^8)=N(R^9)-$ .

25        19. The compound of claim 18, wherein  $A^2$  is  $-N(R^1)-$  and  $B^2$  is  $-N=C(R^4)-$ , each of  $R^1$  and  $R^4$ , independently, being hydrogen or alkyl.

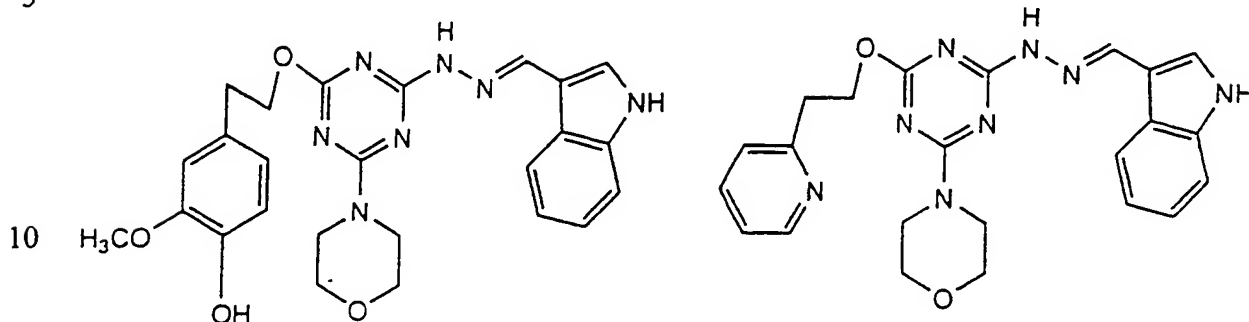
30        20. The compound of claim 19, wherein  $R''$  is aryl or heteroaryl.

21. The compound of claim 20, wherein  $-A^1-B^1-$  is  $-O-$  or  $-(CH(R^a))_m-$  in which  $R^a$  is hydrogen and  $m$  is 1-3, and  $W$

is aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, or halo.

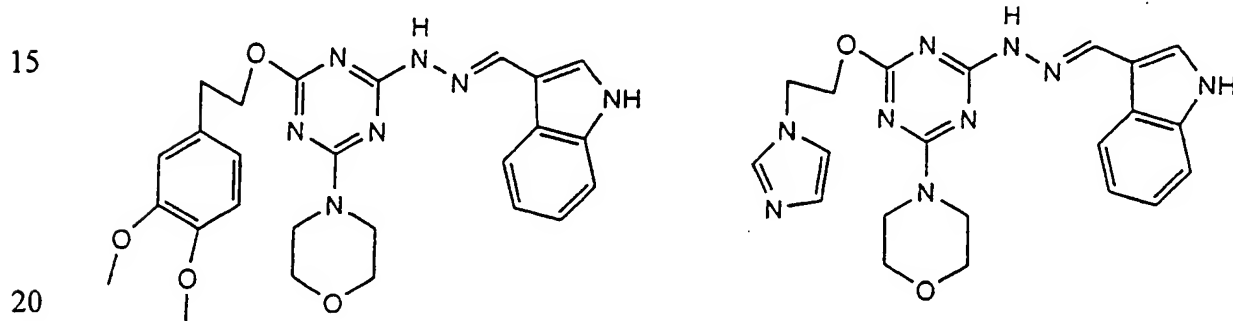
22. The compound of claim 21, where the compound is

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23. The compound of claim 18, wherein  $A^2$  is  $-N(R^1)-$  and  $B^2$  is  $-C(R^6)=C(R^7)-$ , each of  $R^1$ ,  $R^6$ , and  $R^7$ , independently, being hydrogen or alkyl.

25

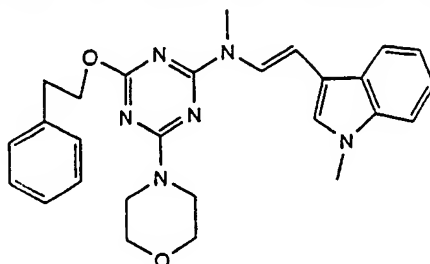
24. The compound of claim 23, wherein  $R''$  is aryl or heteroaryl.

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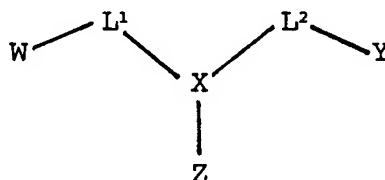
25. The compound of claim 24, wherein  $-A^1-B^1-$  is  $-O-$  or  $-(CH(R^a))_m-$  in which  $R^a$  is hydrogen and  $m$  is 1-3, and  $W$

is aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, or halo.

26. The compound of claim 25, where the compound is



27. A method of inhibiting IL-12 production, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of the following formula:



wherein

X is triazinyl;

L<sup>1</sup> is -A<sup>1</sup>-B<sup>1</sup>-, in which -A<sup>1</sup>- is -(CH(R<sup>a</sup>))<sub>m</sub>-, -O-, -S-,  
 25 or -N(R<sup>b</sup>)- and -B<sup>1</sup>- is -(CH(R<sup>c</sup>))<sub>n</sub>- or a bond, each of R<sup>a</sup>  
 and R<sup>c</sup>, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy,  
 hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl,  
 amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro,  
 alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl,  
 30 alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl,  
 alkylcarbonyloxy, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl,  
 aralkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl; R<sup>b</sup> is hydrogen,  
 alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl,  
 heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl; and each of m and n,  
 35 independently, is 1-8;

W is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy;

L<sup>2</sup> is -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>-, in which A<sup>2</sup> is a bond, -N(R<sup>1</sup>)-, or -(-C(R<sup>2</sup>)(R<sup>3</sup>)-)<sub>p</sub>-, and B<sup>2</sup> is a bond, -N=C(R<sup>4</sup>)-, -C(R<sup>5</sup>)=N-, -C(R<sup>6</sup>)=C(R<sup>7</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)=N(R<sup>9</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>10</sup>)-C(R<sup>11</sup>)(R<sup>12</sup>)-, -O-C(R<sup>13</sup>)(R<sup>14</sup>)-, -CO-C(R<sup>15</sup>)(R<sup>16</sup>)-, -CO-N(R<sup>17</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>18</sup>)-CO-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -CO-S-, -S-C(R<sup>19</sup>)(R<sup>20</sup>)-, -CS-C(R<sup>21</sup>)(R<sup>22</sup>)-, -CS-N(R<sup>23</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>24</sup>)-CS-, -CS-, -SO<sub>2</sub>-, provided that -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>- cannot be a bond; or -A<sup>2</sup>-B<sup>2</sup>- is -O-, -S-, -(-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-O-)<sub>r</sub>-, -(-N(R<sup>25</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-CO-)<sub>t</sub>-, or -(-N(R<sup>26</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>u</sub>-N(R<sup>27</sup>)-)<sub>v</sub>-, each of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup>, R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>19</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>, R<sup>21</sup>, R<sup>22</sup>, R<sup>23</sup>, R<sup>24</sup>, R<sup>25</sup>, R<sup>26</sup>, and R<sup>27</sup>, independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl; and each of p, q, r, s, t, u, and v, independently, being 1, 2, or 3;

Y is -R'-L'-R" wherein R' is a bond, or cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, or alkoxycarbonylimino; L' is a bond, -O-, -S-, -N(R<sup>28</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>29</sup>)-CO-, -CO-N(R<sup>30</sup>)-, -CO-O-, or

-O-CO-, each of  $R^{28}$ ,  $R^{29}$ , and  $R^{30}$ , independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl; and  $R''$  is cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, or heteroaralkyl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy; and

$Z$  is cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, carboxyl, halo, haloalkyl, amino, aminoalkyl, thio, thioalkyl, cyano, nitro, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonylalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, or alkylcarbonyloxy; or a salt thereof.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein  $Z$  is heterocycloalkyl.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein  $Z$  is morpholinyl.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein  $W$  is cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, or heteroaryl.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein  $W$  is aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, or halo.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein R" is a tricyclic fused aryl or heteroaryl.

5        33. The method of claim 32, wherein W is aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxyl, or halo.

34. The method of claim 29, wherein A<sup>2</sup> is -N(R<sup>1</sup>)-  
10 and B<sup>2</sup> is -N=C(R<sup>4</sup>)-, -C(R<sup>5</sup>)=N-, -C(R<sup>6</sup>)=C(R<sup>7</sup>)-, or  
-N(R<sup>8</sup>)=N(R<sup>9</sup>)-.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein W is aryl or heteroaryl, optionally substituted with alkyl, alkoxy,  
15 hydroxyl, or halo.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/16094

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claim Nos.: 1-5, 7-11, 13-21, 23-25, and 27-35  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
The structural makeup of W, X, Y, Z, L1, and L2 variables generically set forth in the claims and description pages result in a multitude of permutations which can not be readily classified, thus no meaningful search can be made.
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐  
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/16094

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : C07D 413/14

US CL : 544/113

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 544/113

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
STN substructure search MEDLINE

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	BE 660,634 A (BADISCHE ANILIN & SODA FABRIK A.-G.) 06 September 1965 (06.09.1965), see pages 6-7, example 3.	6, 12, 22, and 26
A	TRINCHIERI, G. Function and Clinical use of Interleukin-12. Curr. Opin. Hematol. January 1997, Vol. 4, No. 1, pages 59-66.	6, 12, 22, and 26

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 July 2000 (25.07.2000)

Date of mailing of the international search report

18 SEP 2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US00/16094

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

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because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claim Nos.: 1-5, 7-11, 13-21, 23-25, and 27-35  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
The structural makeup of W, X, Y, Z, L1, and L2 variables generically set forth in the claims and description pages result in a multitude of permutations which can not be readily classified, thus no meaningful search can be made.
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
  2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
  3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
- Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.